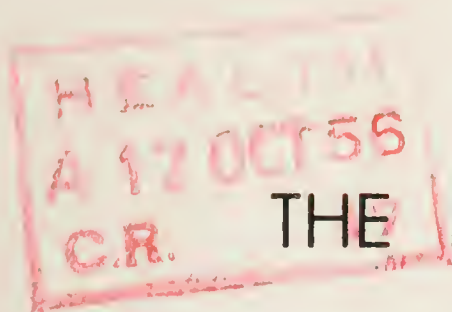


*Libby*



THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF SEDGEFIELD.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING  
31st DECEMBER, 1955.

FERRYHILL :

Printed by A. Blamire & Son, Printers & Stationers.  
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## **SEDGEFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

*Chairman of the Council 1955—1956 :*

Councillor MRS. DOROTHY TURNER, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor J. R. ADAMSON.

*Councillors :*

Coun. A. Birkbeck.	Coun. Mrs. M. Kendall.
„ G. L. Bowen.	„ J. Kennedy, M.B.E., J.P.
„ G. Bradley.	„ G. Lawson.
„ D. Burton.	„ T. Leonard.
„ Mrs. M. A. Chapman.	„ J. Madrell.
* „ J. W. Clark.	„ P. W. McCourt.
„ J. Clelland.	„ Miss F. C. Naylor.
„ T. H. Conley.	„ F. Ogden.
„ (resigned 8/9/55).	„ H. Orton.
„ Mrs. E. Curry.	„ G. T. H. Pearson.
„ P. Davies.	„ E. Perks.
„ H. Davison.	* „ J. Richardson.
„ R. Ellis (from 23/3/56).	* „ Mrs. O. Robinson.
* „ T. Flatman.	„ T. Shields, B.E.M.
„ J. P. Gavin.	„ R. W. Smith.
„ D. Guthrie.	„ T. Smith.
„ R. Hall.	* „ Mrs. C. Stoddart.
„ R. W. Hardy.	„ G. W. Terrans,
„ A. E. Hart.	„ (from 23/3/56).
* „ H. R. Hodgson.	„ T. G. Thompson.
„ G. H. Johnson.	„ A. E. Tills,
„ Mrs. A. Kell.	„ (from 18/11/55).
	„ J. Wharrier,
	„ (resigned 26/1/56).

\* Members of the No. 11 Area Health Sub-Committee.

### **Public Health Officers and Staff of the Local Authority.**

Medical Officer of Health, (Part-Time) :-

M. W. RODGERS, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :-

R. CLOUGH, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,  
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Sanitary Inspectors :-

E. CURRY, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,  
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

T. O. CRISP, A.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,  
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Assistant to Sanitary Inspectors :-

W. KENNEDY.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector :-

D. O'CONNOR, (Since May, 1955).

Shorthand Typist :-

Mrs. D. MALPAS, (resigned 30/9/55).

Miss M. ALLANSON, (commenced 26/9/55).





## SEDGEFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
SEDGEFIELD,  
STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the 78th Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1955.

I will endeavour in this introductory letter to summarize the contents of the report and to make comments on points of special interest.

### **Vital Statistics.**

Vital statistics enable a comparison to be made between the health of the district in different years and the health of the rest of the country. The rates used in this connection are the live birth rate, the still birth rate, the infantile mortality rate and the general death rate. With one exception, these rates indicate that the health of your district compares very favourably with that of the country as a whole. Live births increased by 40 as compared with the previous year, giving a rate higher than last year and slightly higher than that for England and Wales. Still births decreased by one, giving a correspondingly lower rate than that for 1954. The infantile mortality rate was not only the lowest on record for your district but was also slightly below the country's rate. For the third year in succession there were no maternal deaths.

The general death rate, however, in addition to being slightly higher than that of the previous year was considerably above that of England and Wales, but I consider that this is misleading. Since 1st January, 1953, deaths occurring in hospitals for the chronic sick are allocated to the district in which the hospitals are situated. It will be seen in the table of birth and death rates on page 12 that the rise in the Sedgefield rate coincided with this change in procedure. It may be of interest that of the 503 deaths, 183 occurred in such a hospital.

Diseases of the heart and arteries accounted for over half the deaths (54.9 per cent.) and malignant disease accounted for 14.1 per cent. Although the proportion of deaths due to malignant disease has not shown much variation over the past few years, deaths from cancer of the lung have risen. The figures were 9 in 1950, 9 in 1951, 2 in 1952, 5 in 1953, 9 in 1954, and 16 in 1955.

Slightly over one-third of all deaths occurred at ages of 75 years and over.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

Notifications of infectious disease showed a large increase (277) over the 1954 figures due to an epidemic of measles and outbreaks of dysentery. Measles had an increased incidence throughout the country and your district's notification rate was not as high as that of England and Wales.

Outbreaks of dysentery occurred in the early part of the year affecting Chilton Lane and Trimdon Village schools and cases also occurred in Winterton Hospital. These followed similar outbreaks in other parts of the county. The infection was widespread when the first notification was received, which made it impossible to trace the source of the outbreak, and it was decided to exclude all affected school children for a fortnight. Specimens were submitted for bacteriological examination from all school meals attendants and all were negative. Arrangements were made with the Education Authority for the replacement of roller towels with paper towels. In a few weeks the infection subsided.

One case of para-typhoid was notified from the Sedgefield General Hospital but the affected person was not a resident of your district.

No cases of typhoid fever, food poisoning or diphtheria occurred. One case of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred in your district but as the diagnosis was made in a hospital in another district the notification is not recorded in this area. The patient was unfortunately left with some residual paralysis.

Puerperal Pyrexia notifications numbered one less than the previous year and all were received from a maternity hospital.

#### **Anthrax.**

During the year as a result of the inspection of a carcase by the sanitary inspector it was found that an animal suffering from anthrax had been slaughtered. A considerable number of human contacts were involved and all were kept under careful supervision. In one case prophylactic treatment was given. Fortunately none contracted the disease.

#### **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

There was an increase of 493 in primary immunisations and an increase of 1,365 in re-inforcing doses as compared with 1954, due to an immunisation campaign held in the spring of 1955.

#### **Tuberculosis.**

A new table and graphs have been introduced into the report which show that both new cases of the disease and deaths have shown some decrease over the past ten years.

#### **National Assistance Act, 1948.**

Section 47 of this Act gives Local Authorities power to deal with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people.

The shortage of hostel accommodation persists and it remains very difficult to obtain hospital accommodation for the chronic sick. I had very little difficulty in this respect during the year under review as the persons in this category under my supervision were extremely antagonistic to the idea of leaving their homes and it is only as a last resort that I would feel justified in recommending forcible removal. My main difficulty was in persuading them to accept any help at all, such as the services of a home help or district nurse, but in spite of this I was able to effect improvements in their circumstances. In my efforts I received all possible assistance from the County Health Department.



#### **Public Health Laboratory Service.**

This service is of great assistance to the Health Department and I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Blowers, of the Middlesbrough Laboratory, for his co-operation and for his personal interest in problems of special interest which have occurred.

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

#### **Housing.**

During the year further progress was made in dealing with unfit property. Over the past seven years steady progress has been made in this work and has resulted in a noticeable improvement in the housing standards of your district which, in common with the rest of the country, was showing the effect of lack of action during the war and immediate post-war period. Since 1945, 515 houses have been demolished or closed. This progress has lowered the number of houses scheduled for action during the next five years as submitted in the return sent to the Ministry. The total number of such houses is 329.

In my opinion the largest remaining problem is at Cornforth, where the lack of available land is holding up the building of houses necessary to replace those already condemned and those scheduled for demolition.

#### **Water.**

It is very satisfactory that almost the whole of your district is provided with a piped water supply as a result of your action under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1945.

The quality of water during the year remained satisfactory. No mention has been made in the body of the report on the degree of hardness of water as this fluctuated considerably depending on the proportion of upland and deep well water. Towards the end of the year the water was very hard due to the shortage of upland water resulting from the drought.

#### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

This important and necessary part of a sanitary inspector's work takes up a large proportion of time and will require even more time in the future in view of the new Regulations.

Food premises were visited regularly and generally a satisfactory standard was provided and maintained.

Your district contains sixteen private slaughter houses in use, which are visited regularly by the sanitary inspectors. Every effort was made to ensure inspection of all animals slaughtered in your district. To achieve this ambition of 100 per cent. inspection, it was necessary for sanitary inspectors to work during public holidays and in certain instances during the week-ends. The quality of meat was good.

**Atmospheric Pollution.**

The newly constructed coking plant at Fishburn came into operation in June, 1954, following which many complaints from local residents and from neighbouring hospitals were received of nuisance from sulphurous fumes. The complaints were of obnoxious smell and damage to metals and paintwork. Numerous discussions took place with the officials of the National Coal Board and with the Inspector of Alkali Works and, early in 1955, the National Coal Board decided to instal equipment for indirect water cooling. These alterations were completed before the end of the year since which conditions have shown considerable improvement and no further complaints have been received.

In conclusion I welcome this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the Council for their continued support and to the Clerk of the Council and his staff for their co-operation. I should also like to thank the staff of my department for their valuable assistance during the year and particularly Mr. Curry for help in preparing this report.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. W. RODGERS,

Medical Officer of Health.

## **GENERAL STATISTICS.**

Area 39,005 acres.

Population 35,980.

No. of inhabited houses 10,688.

Rateable Value £275,040.

Sum represented by a penny rate £1,035 (at April 1st, 1956).

### **Comparability Factors.**

Births 1.00. Deaths 1.14.

### **Main Industries and Employment.**

Your district is covered by Employment Exchanges situated at Spennymoor, Sedgefield and Wingate.

#### **SPENNYMOOR.**

The main industries in the part of the district covered by Spennymoor Employment Exchange are: Coal mining, limestone quarrying, general engineering, dress manufacture and agriculture.

The employment situation remained consistently good during 1955, and work was generally available for those men who were physically capable of manual work. Very few skilled workers remained unemployed for any length of time, and the majority of those for whom employment could not be found were those, who by reason of age or infirmity, were restricted to the less arduous forms of unskilled work.

Employment for women also remained good throughout the year and factory work was generally available on the Trading Estate, Spennymoor, for any young women willing to accept this type of employment. There was always difficulty in finding employment for elderly women and those who, for various reasons, were restricted in the type of work for which they were suitable.

#### **SEDFIELD.**

The chief industries in that part of the district covered by the Sedgefield Employment Exchange are: Coal mining, coke ovens and hospital services. Other industries are building and agriculture. Unemployment has been low throughout the year.

#### **WINGATE.**

The chief industries in that part of the Sedgefield Rural District which is covered by the Wingate Employment Exchange are: Coal mining, coke ovens and bye-products, public transport services and agriculture. The amount of unemployment is small.



## VITAL STATISTICS.

Births—Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	281	260	541
Illegitimate	5	6	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	286	266	552

Live Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—15.3.  
Rate for England and Wales—15.0.

Still births.	Male.	Female	Total.
Legitimate	9	5	14
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9	5	14

Still Births per 1,000 of the population—0.39.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Totals births (live and still)	295	271	566

Total birth rate per 1,000 of the population—15.73.

Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)—24.73.

### Infantile Mortality.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	6	7	13
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	7	13

### Infantile Mortality Rate.

Death rate of all infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live births—23.5.

Rate for England and Wales—24.9.

Death rate of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births—24.03.

Death rate of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births—Nil.

*Analysis of Causes of death in two age-groups, under one month (Neo-Natal deaths), and one month to one year.*

Neo-natal Deaths.			Deaths 1 month — 1 year.		
	Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.
Under 1 week	3	3	3 mths and under		
			4 mths.	1	—
1 week and under			6 mths and under		
2 weeks	1	1	7 mths.	—	1
			8 mths and under		
2 weeks and under			9 mths.	1	—
3 weeks	—	1	9 mths and under		
			10 mths.	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
	4	5		2	2
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	9			4	



Causes of Death.	Neonatal.		1 mth. to 1 yr.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Cerebral haemorrhage ... ..	1	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ... ..	—	2	1	1
Congenital Atelectasis ... ..	1	—	—	—
Prematurity ... ..	1	2	—	—
Interstitial emphysema ... ..	1	—	—	—
Haemorrhagic disease of new born	—	1	—	—
Acute respiratory infection ... ..	—	—	1	1
	4	5	2	2
	9		4	

Deaths.	Total.	Male.	Female.
	503	274	229

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population : 15·94.

Maternal Deaths ... .. NIL.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	5	2
„ Non-respiratory ... ..	—	1
Syphilitic disease ... ..	3	2
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
Whooping cough ... ..	—	—
Meningococcal infection ... ..	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	4	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	7	1
„ „ lungs, bronchus ... ..	15	1
„ „ breast ... ..	—	9
„ „ uterus ... ..	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	27	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	1	—
Diabetes ... ..	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	34	32
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	31	23
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	9	8
Other heart disease ... ..	53	62
Other circulatory disease ... ..	9	15
Influenza ... ..	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	10	17
Bronchitis ... ..	13	4
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	6	3
Ulcer, stomach and duodenum ... ..	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	—
Congenital malformation ... ..	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	23	22
Motor Vehicle accidents ... ..	3	—
All other accidents ... ..	8	8
Suicide ... ..	2	—
Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—
ALL CAUSES ... ..	274	229

Age Groups of Deaths.

Under 1 Month	1 Month and under 1 Year	1 Year and under 2 Years	2 Years and under 3 Years	3 Years and under 4 Years	4 Years and under 5 Years	5 Years and under 10 Years
9	4	1	1	1	—	1
10 Years and under 15 Years	15 Years and under 20 Years	20 Years and under 25 Years	25 Years and under 30 Years	30 Years and under 35 Years	35 Years and under 40 Years	40 Years and under 45 Years
2	1	2	2	10	10	21
45 Years and under 50 Years	50 Years and under 55 Years	55 Years and under 60 Years	60 Years and under 65 Years	65 Years and under 70 Years	70 Years and under 75 Years	75 Years and Over
19	29	24	48	68	81	169

Table of Birth and Death rates for the past 20 years (1936-1955) as compared with Rates for England and Wales.

Year.	General Death Rate.		Infantile Mortality Rate.		Total Birth Rate.	
	Sedgefield	England and Wales	Sedgefield	England and Wales	Sedgefield	England and Wales
1936	10.9	12.1	77	59	18.4	15.41
1937	12.2	12.4	74	58	18.15	15.50
1938	11.41	11.6	73	53	17.84	15.70
1939	11.33	12.1	65	50	17.38	15.59
1940	13.83	14.3	50.81	55	17.74	15.15
1941	10.78	12.9	73	59	17.80	15.70
1942	9.71	11.6	71.80	49	19.44	16.34
1943	10.53	12.1	65.30	49	18.45	17.01
1944	10.73	11.6	48.74	46	21.61	18.11
1945	9.96	11.4	58.29	46	20.56	16.56
1946	10.65	11.5	45.80	43	20.59	19.63
1947	10.33	12.0	37.70	41	20.54	21.00
1948	10.25	10.8	47.69	34	18.20	18.32
1949	10.68	11.7	63.04	32	17.41	17.09
1950	11.26	11.6	33.51	29.8	16.91	16.17
1951	12.28	12.5	35.27	29.6	17.31	15.86
1952	11.03	11.3	34.2	27.6	18.48	15.3
1953	16.02	11.4	32.6	26.8	16.59	15.85
1954	15.76	11.3	25.39	25.5	*14.19	*15.2
1955	15.94	11.7	23.5	24.9	*15.3	*15.0

\* Live birth rate.

# MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.

	Under 25		25 and under 35.		35 and under 40.		40 and under 45.		45 and under 50.		50 and under 55.		55 and under 60.		60 and under 65.		65 and under 70.		70 and under 75.		75 and over.		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Stomach ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	2	—	7	1
Lung & Bronchus	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	1	—	2	—	15	1
Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pharynx ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Oesophagus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hepatic duct ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pancreas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small Intestine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colon ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rectum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kidney ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bladder ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prostate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liver ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ovary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other sites ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	1	3	3	1	3	6	3	11	2	8	3	12	5	49	22	—	—



Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1955.

						England and Wales	Sedgefield Rural District
						(Rates per 1,000 population)	
Births :—							
Live	...	...	...	...	...	15.0	15.3
Still	...	...	...	...	...	0.35	0.39
						(a) 23.1	(a) 24.7
Deaths :—							
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	11.7	15.94
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	0.13	0.19
„ Other	...	...	...	...	...	0.015	0.03
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0.07	—
Acute Poliomyelitis including Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	0.005	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.5	0.75
Notifications:— (corrected)							
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.03
Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.73	0.2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1.78	0.83
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	0.1	0.05
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	15.61	10.78
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.63	0.3
Acute Poliomyelitis including Polioencephalitis: Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	0.08	—
Non-paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	0.06	—
Food poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	0.29	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	(a) 17.8	(a) 22.97
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	0.82	3.78
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	0.77	0.66
„ Meninges and C.N.S.	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	} 0.08
„ Other	...	...	...	...	...	0.09	
						(Rates per 1,000 Live Births)	
Deaths—							
All causes under one year of age	...	...	...	...	...	24.9	23.5
Neo-Natal Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	17.3	16.3
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	...	...	...	...	...	0.75	1.8
						(Rates per 1,000 Total Birth) (i.e. Live and Still)	
Maternal Mortality :—							
Maternal Causes excluding abortion	...	...	...	...	...	0.54	—
Due to abortion	...	...	...	...	...	0.10	—
Total Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	0.64	—

(a) per 1000 total (live and still) births.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Table of cases as notified in the whole district set out in age groups.

Disease.	At all ages	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Hos- pital case s	Home cases
Para-typhoid B.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	9	—	1	2	4	1	—	1	—	—	7	2
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	13	—	—	—	—	—	7	6	—	—	13(a)	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Pneumonia	11	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	5	5(a)	6
Dysentery	136	1	1	8	70	17	1	8	23	7	37(b)	99
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	388	7	83	128	168	1	—	1	—	—	1	387
Whooping Cough	30	2	6	14	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
TOTALS ...	591	10	92	152	251	19	9	18	28	12	65	526

(a) These cases occurred in a hospital.

(b) Thirty-six of these cases occurred in a hospital  
One notified case of Scarlet Fever was not confirmed and, as a result, the total number of confirmed cases was 590.

Table of Confirmed Cases of Infectious Diseases by Parishes.

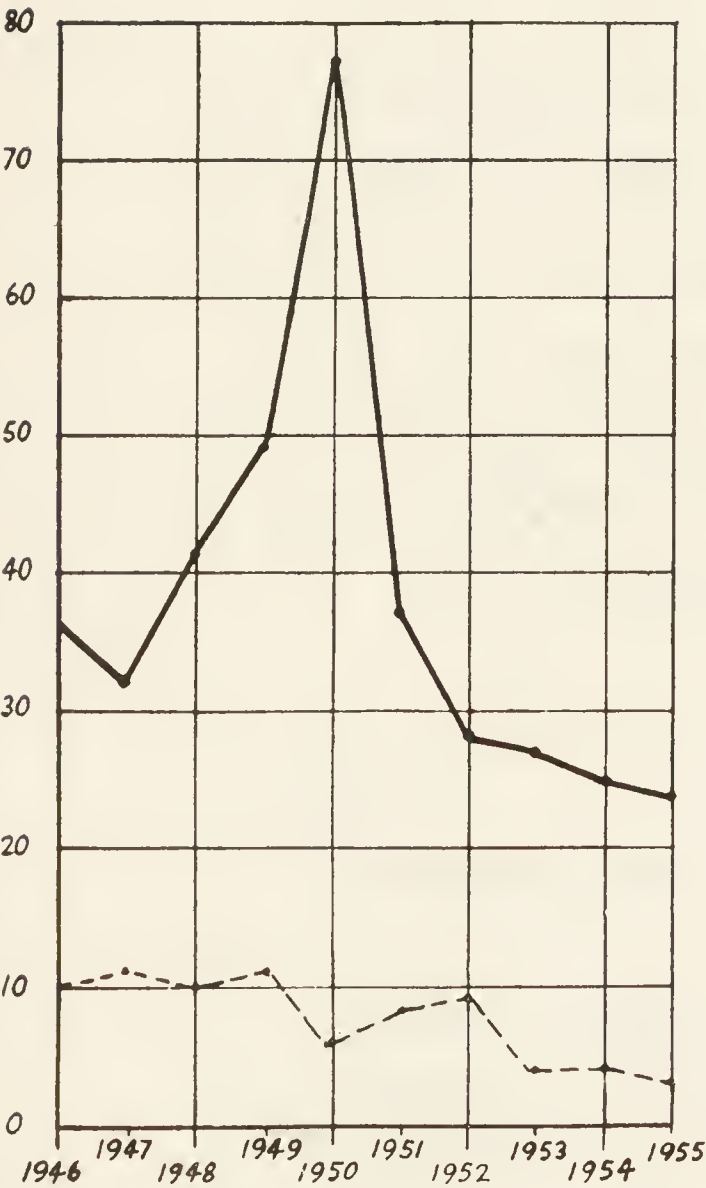
PARISH.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Meningo- coccal Infection	Pneumonia	Erysip- elas	Dysentery	Paraty- phoid B.	Measles	Whooping Cough	Total
Bishop Middleham ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	29
Bradbury ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chilton ...	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	19	—	23
Chilton Lane ...	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	18	—	48
Cornforth ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	21
East Howle ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	17
Ferryhill ...	—	3	—	5	1	9	—	231	23	272
Fishburn ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Foxton & Shotton ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mainsforth ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	4
Sedgefield ...	13	1	—	5	—	36	1	22	—	78
Stillington ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	4
Trimdon ...	—	—	—	—	—	56	—	30	4	90
Windlestone ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	13	8	1	11	2	136	1	388	30	590

Table and Graph showing new cases and mortality during the past 10 years.

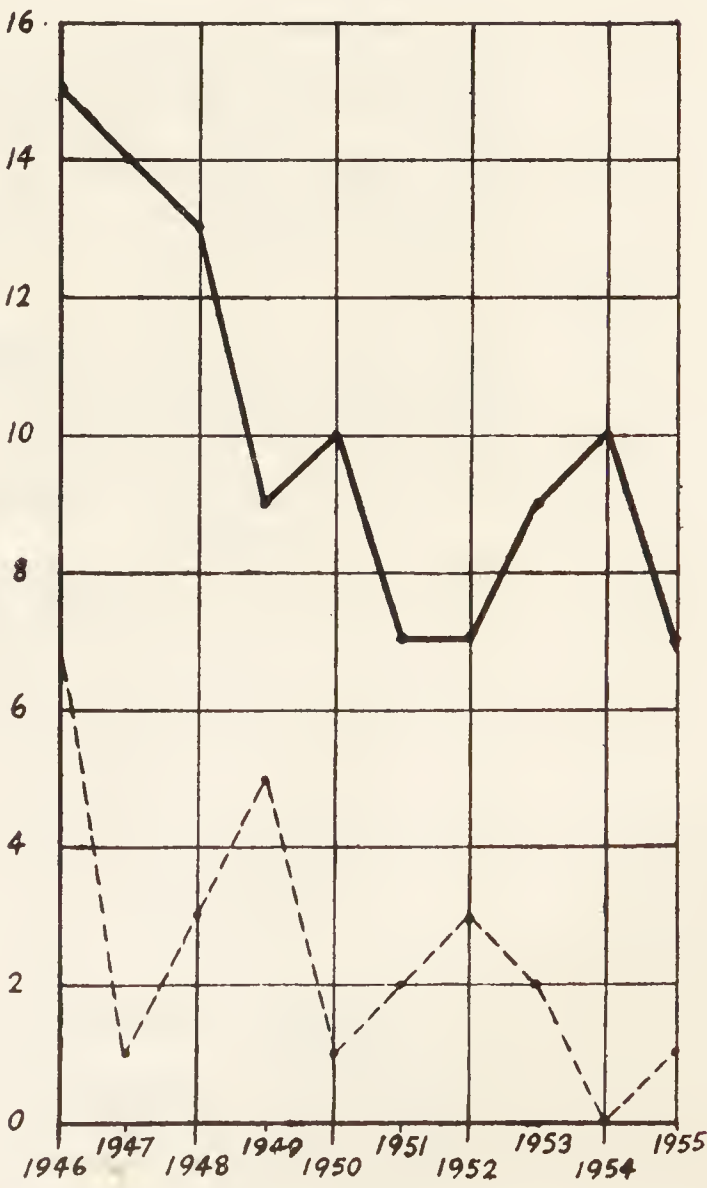
Year	New Cases				Mortality			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1946	20	16	5	5	8	7	6	1
1947	14	18	7	4	8	6	1	—
1948	16	25	6	4	4	9	1	2
1949	26	23	5	6	5	4	3	2
1950	54	23	3	3	7	3	1	—
1951	29	8	4	4	4	3	1	1
1952	12	16	3	6	5	2	1	2
1953	17	10	2	2	5	4	—	2
1954	9	16	3	1	6	4	—	—
1955	11	13	1	2	5	2	—	1

RESPIRATORY      —————  
NON-RESPIRATORY      - - - - -

NEW CASES



MORTALITY



The sharp increase of New Cases in 1950 was due to the visit of the Mass Radiography to Winterton Hospital.

**Cases of Infectious Diseases admitted to Isolation Hospitals  
or Treated in other Hospitals during 1955.**

Disease.					Suspected.	Confirmed.
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	5
Scarlet Fever		...	...	...	7	6
Measles	...	...	...	...	1	1
Tuberculosis, respiratory		...	...	...	15	15
„ meninges & C.N.S.		...	...	...	1	1
„ other forms	...	...	...	...	2	2
Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	1	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	37	37
Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	...	13	13
Para-typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	1	1
					<hr/> 83 <hr/>	<hr/> 82 <hr/>

**BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORT.**

**Faeces.**

No. of specimens.	Enteric. Positive.	Dysentery. Positive.	Food Poisoning. Positive.	Other organisms. Positive.
<b>104</b>	<b>Nil.</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Nil.</b>	<b>Nil.</b>

**Throat Swabs.**

No. of specimens.	Diphtheria Positive.	Haemolytic Strep. Positive.	Other organisms. Positive.
<b>1</b>	<b>Nil.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Nil.</b>

**Sputum.**

No. of specimens.	Tubercle. Positive.
<b>82</b>	<b>28</b>

**Miscellaneous.**

No. of specimens.	Tubercle. Positive.
<b>Nil.</b>	<b>Nil.</b>



**TUBERCULOSIS.**

New cases and Mortality during 1955.

Age Periods			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1—5	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
6—10	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
11—15	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
16—20	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
21—25	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
26—35	...	1	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	
36—45	...	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	
46—55	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
56—65	...	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	
66 and over	...	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	
Age unknown	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
			11	13	1	2	5	2	—	1
			24		3		7		1	
			27				8			

Of the above new cases, two of the respiratory form of the disease were notified from Winterton Hospital. The total number of new cases of the respiratory form of the disease in the year under review was one less than that for 1954. Notifications of the non-respiratory form showed a decrease of one when compared with those for the preceding year.

Deaths from respiratory tuberculosis decreased by three when compared with the figures for 1954. There was one death from non-respiratory tuberculosis in 1955 as against none for the preceding year. The overall number of deaths from both forms of the disease decreased by two.

**Tuberculosis Mortality Rate.**

		1953	1954	1955
Respiratory	...	0.249	0.277	0.19
Non-Resipatory	...	0.055	Nil.	0.03

Number of cases on Register at 31st December, 1955.

Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.			Total cases
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
92	90	182	26	24	50	232

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of persons immunised for which records were received during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation.

<i>Under 1.</i>	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	<i>Total.</i>
167	62	9	8	14	425	339	1024

Number of children who were given a re-inforcing injection.

4	5-9	10-14	<i>Total.</i>
41	722	686	1449

These figures compared with a total of 531 primary immunisations and 84 re-inforcing injections in the previous year. The increase in the number during the year under review was due to an immunisation campaign.

## FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

Total number of outbreaks ...	...	Nil.
Number of cases ...	...	Nil.
Number of deaths ...	...	Nil.
Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks attributable to each ...	...	Nil.
Foods involved, with number of outbreaks associated with each food ...	...	Nil.

## National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

No action was taken under this section.

**Health Services administered in your area  
by the Local Health Authority.**

## WELFARE SERVICES.

(a) RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION.—Accommodation is provided for persons who by reason of age, infirmity, or other circumstances, are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them. Although new accommodation is steadily being provided all available beds are occupied and there is a waiting list.

Application for admission should be made to the County Medical Officer or to the Assistant County Medical Officer.



(b) **BLIND PERSONS.**—A comprehensive service is provided which includes medical examination, home visiting and teaching, assistance in obtaining suitable employment in workshops or at home, admission to homes for the blind, and general social welfare. Any advice needed can be obtained from the County Health Department.

(c) **OTHER HANDICAPPED PERSONS.**—Certain welfare services are available for persons who are deaf and dumb, partially sighted, or substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity.

### **Home Nursing.**

The services of a home nurse are available anywhere in the County. Medical practitioners, the County Health Department or the Assistant County Medical Officer will advise as to the scope of the service provided.

### **Vaccination and Immunisation.**

(a) Vaccination against small pox may be obtained free of charge on application to any medical practitioner who has agreed to give service within the National Health Service. Facilities are also available for the vaccination of children at maternity and child welfare centres.

(b) Immunisation against diphtheria may be carried out on application to maternity and child welfare centres or to any general practitioner operating in the National Health Service, free of charge.

(c) B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis may in certain circumstances be carried out by chest physicians at the chest clinics. Applications should be made direct.

### **Domiciliary Midwifery Service.**

Names and addresses of the midwives available can be obtained from the child welfare centres or medical practitioners.

### **Domestic Help Service.**

Domestic help is provided for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, an expectant mother, lying-in, mentally defective, aged or a child not over school age. Any person may make a request for the services of a domestic help and application can be made direct to the County Health Department or through the health visitors. A charge is normally made for this service, but in certain circumstances the charge may be reduced or remitted altogether.

### **Health Visiting.**

The health visitors visit persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice on the care of young children, to expectant and nursing mothers, and to aged or ill persons, and to stress the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection. They provide the link between the home and the County Health Department and the name and address of the health visitor for any area can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, Shire Hall, Durham, or from the Assistant County Medical Officer.

### **Ambulance Service.**

The County Council provides a free ambulance service for persons in the area for whom ambulance transport is *necessary*. In an emergency any responsible person may summon an ambulance by telephone by asking to be connected to the nearest ambulance control (no telephone number need be given). As a general rule, however, requests for the use of an ambulance should originate from hospitals, doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists or the police. A doctor in attendance may give a patient or a relative a note certifying in advance the need for ambulance transport and this certificate should be posted or taken to the nearest ambulance control.

Relatives or friends of patients cannot be carried except for some special reason, in which case an application to the County Medical Officer of Health, Shire Hall, Durham, will be considered sympathetically.

### **Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.**

Nursing equipment is provided for sick persons at the request of medical practitioners, district nurses, and hospital almoners. Invalid chairs are also available and extra nourishment or bedding can be supplied to patients suffering from tuberculosis. A charge is normally made for this service, but in certain circumstances the charge may be reduced or remitted altogether.

A sound film projector and a film strip projector are available for the showing of films on health matters to selected audiences and the general public anywhere in the county.

### **Mental Health.**

Parents and relatives who wish to obtain information regarding the services available for children or young adults who are mentally retarded should get in touch with the County Health Department, the health visitor, the Assistant County Medical Officer or the duly authorised officer for the area, address of duly authorised officer for the Sedgefield area : 69, Thorntree Gill, Peterlee, Co. Durham (Tel. Peterlee 409).

### **Care of Mothers and Young Children.**

The County Council maintain maternity and child welfare centres at which ante-natal and post-natal clinics are also held, as shown in the following table. Advice can also be obtained on application to the County Medical Officer, Shire Hall, Durham.

(Tel. Durham 4411).

<i>Address of Centre.</i>	<i>Sessions.</i>
CHILTON.  Red Cross Station.	Ante-natal Clinic— Alternate Wednesday mornings. Child Welfare Clinic— Alternate Wednesday Afternoons.



COXHOE.  Social & Literary Institute and Village Hall. Telephone—344.	Ante-natal clinic— Tuesday mornings weekly Alternate Tuesday afternoons. Child Welfare Clinic— Alternate Thursdays. Alternate Tuesday afternoons. Birth control & Post Natal Clinics—Alternate Tuesday afternoons. Ultra Violet Ray Clinics— Tuesday afternoons weekly Friday afternoons weekly.
FERRYHILL.  Back Dean Road.	Ante-natal clinic— Fridays weekly. Child Welfare Clinic— Tuesdays Weekly. Ultra Violet Ray Clinics— Tuesday Mornings weekly Friday mornings weekly.
FISHBURN.  Miners' Welfare Hall.	Ante-natal clinic— Alternate Monday mornings. Child Welfare Clinic— Alternate Monday afternoons.
SEDFIELD.  County Surveyor's Office. Telephone—221.	Ante-natal clinic— Alternate Tuesday mornings Child Welfare Clinic— Alternate Tuesday afternoons. Alternate Thursday afternoons.
TRIMDON.  Back Peel Avenue, Trimdon Grange.	Ante-natal clinic— Alternate Thursday mornings. Child Welfare Clinic— Alternate Thursdays.

### Welfare Foods.

National dried milk, orange juice, cod liver oil and vitamin tablets for mothers and babies are distributed from the following centres on the days shown:

BISHOP MIDDLEHAM, Village Hall.	Alternate Tuesday afternoons.
CHILTON, Red Cross Station ...	Alternate Wednesdays all day.
COXHOE, Village Hall ...	Tuesdays all day.
FERRYHILL, Back Dean Road ...	Tuesdays all day.
FISHBURN, Miners' Welfare Hall	Alternate Mondays all day.
SEDFIELD, Surveyor's Office ...	Alternate Tuesdays all day.
TRIMDON GRANGE, Back Peel Ave.	Alternate Thursdays all day.

Sessions :- Morning: 10-30 — 12 Noon.  
Afternoons: 1-30 — 3-30 p.m.

### Maternity Homes and Hospitals.

These are controlled by the Regional Hospital Board, but applications for admission should be made to the medical officers at the maternity and child welfare centres shown on the previous table.

Accommodation for unmarried mothers is available at maternity homes provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and the Durham Diocesan Moral Welfare Association also maintain homes for unmarried mothers and their babies. Application for admission should be made to the medical officers at the child welfare centres.

### Day Nurseries.

Day nurseries are provided at:—

Tame Street, Haverton Hill (Tel. Middlesbrough 57129).  
Durham Road, Stockton (Tel. Stockton 66940).  
Norton Road, Stockton (Tel. Stockton 66555).

Application for admission should be made to the matrons.

### Residential Nurseries.

Residential nurseries are available for certain cases and information regarding these may be obtained from the Children's Officer, Crossgate Moor, Durham (Tel. Durham 3311).

### Convalescent Home.

The E.F. Peile County Convalescent Home, Shotley Bridge, (Tel.: Shotley Bridge 27), is controlled by the County Council of Durham, and admits nursing mothers with their babies and children under five years of age. Applications for admission should be made at the child welfare centres.

### Services administered in your area by the Regional Hospital Board.

#### Tuberculosis Services.

There are no chest clinics in the Sedgefield Rural District, but residents of the area are served by clinics at West Hartlepool, Stockton, Darlington and Bishop Auckland as follows:—

Clinic.	Sessions.	Additional Information.
"Ninefields," Etherley Lane, Bp. Auckland. Tel. 632.	Monday 9-30 a.m. (New cases) Monday 2 p.m. (Contacts)	New cases by appointment only.
Memorial Hospital, Hundens Lane, Darlington. Tel. 2793.	Monday 9 a.m. Tuesday 2 p.m. Thursday 9 a.m. (Males only) Friday 9 a.m. (Females only)	



Cleveland House, Bowesfield Lane, Stockton-on-Tees. Tel. 6251.	Monday 2 - 4 p.m. Wednesday 9-30 - 12 noon Thursday 10 - 12 noon and 2 - 4 p.m. Friday 2 - 4 p.m.	Patients from Fishburn and Sedgefield should attend this clinic.
Brierton Hospital, Brierton Lane, West Hartlepool. Tel. 5555-6.	Monday 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. Wednesday 2 p.m. (Children only)	Patients from the Trimdons should attend this clinic.

### Treatment of Venereal Diseases.

There are no venereal disease clinics in the Sedgefield area but consultations may be obtained as shown below :-

#### Stockton and Thornaby Hospital.

Tuesdays	2-0 p.m. - 4-0 p.m.	Females.
"	5-0 p.m. - 7-0 p.m.	Males.
Fridays	2-0 p.m. - 4-0 p.m.	Females.
Saturdays	9-0 a.m. - 10-0 a.m.	Males.

#### General Hospital, West Hartlepool.

Mondays	2-0 p.m. - 4-0 p.m.	Females.
Thursday	5-0 p.m. - 7-0 p.m.	Males.

#### Durham County Hospital.

Mondays	2-0 p.m.	Females.
Mondays	4-30 p.m.	Males.
Thursdays	2-0 p.m.	Females.
Thursdays	4-30 p.m.	Males.

#### Hundens Hospital, Darlington.

Mondays	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	...	...	Females.
Tuesdays	10-0 a.m. - 12-0 noon	and 5 - 7 p.m.		Males.
Wednesdays	2-0 p.m. - 4-0 p.m.	...	...	Females.
Thursdays	5-0 p.m. - 7-0 p.m.	...	...	Males.
Fridays	2 - 4 p.m.	Females	5 - 7 p.m.	Males.

### General and Maternity Accommodation.

Full consultant service is provided at Sedgefield General Hospital, the Sedgefield Isolation Hospital and Hardwick Hall Maternity Home for aural, obstetrical and gynaecological, medical, orthopaedic and surgical cases. The bed complement at these hospitals is 364, 48 and 35 respectively.



Clinical sessions are held as under at the Sedgefield General Hospital :-

Ear, Nose and Throat.	Wednesday 2 p.m. (By appointment)
Gynaecological.	Tuesday 2 p.m. (By appointment)
Medical	Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 a.m. and Thursday at 2 p.m. (By appointment)
Orthopaedic.	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9-30 a.m. (By appointment)
Surgical.	Monday and Friday at 2 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday at 9-30 a.m. (By appointment)

There are no Sanatoria in the Sedgefield area.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Housing.

During the year 304 new Council houses and 12 new private houses were completed and occupied. The new houses are all of the traditional brick type, and the situation of the Council houses is as follows :—

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>No. of Houses.</i>
West Cornforth	48
Ferryhill	102
Fishburn	4
Trimdon	108
Chilton Buildings	33
Bishop Middleham	9

One double house at Trimdon Grange was converted into two making one additional unit of habitation.

Stage three of redevelopment at Bishop Middleham was completed.

Two cottages at Preston-le-Skerne were closed pending demolition. A demolition order was served upon a vacant cottage at Sedgefield.

At Front Street and Reading Room Row, Trimdon Grange, the remaining tenants were rehoused and demolition commenced. High Dyke Street, Trimdon Colliery, was considered as a possible redevelopment area. The property was purchased and arrangements made for the construction of houses as alternative accommodation for the occupants. The rehousing of tenants in Middle Plantation, Trimdon Grange, was also carried to completion.

During the year the whole of Moor Street, West Cornforth, with the exception of one house and a combined house and shop, was demolished.

Demolition orders were served on eight houses at Simpsons Buildings, West Cornforth, three at Railway Terrace, West Cornforth and 12 at The Green, Old Cornforth. A closing order became operative on 60, High Street, West Cornforth. Demolition orders were served upon eight houses at Bridge Street, Metal Bridge, and upon one house at Thinford Street, Metal Bridge. All houses at Bridge Street are now under demolition orders with the exception of the Bridge Inn. Demolition orders were made operative upon two houses known as The Willows, Parker Terrace, Ferryhill.

Two flats at East Howle were converted into one house, and an approach was made to the owners of 11 houses known as the Railway Crossings, East Howle, with the result that undertakings were given by the owners that these houses would not again be occupied after they are vacated by the present tenants.

In two instances applications were made for Certificates of Disrepair in respect of two houses at Ferryhill. One of these applications was granted and resulted in the repairs being carried out and the certificate revoked; the other was not granted.

## Closing and Demoliton of Houses.

### A. Formal Action.

(i)	No. of houses demolished during year as a result of Clearance Schemes and other formal action	...	43
(ii)	No. of houses <i>closed</i> but not demolished as a result of formal action	... ..	16
(iii)	No. of houses in Clearance Areas demolition of which was temporarily postponed	... ..	Nil.

### B. Informal Action.

(i)	No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	...	17
-----	---	-----	----

## Reconditioning and Repair.

No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

(a)	as a result of informal action	... ..	121
(b)	by owners as a result of statutory notices	... ..	1
(c)	by Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	Nil.

## Improvement Grants : Housing Act, 1949.

Action during 1955.	No. of separate houses.
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority	... 67
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority	... —
(c) Copies of applications forwarded to Ministry of Housing and Local Government	... 67
(d) Total No. of applications approved since inception of scheme	... 155



## Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

All townships in your district are drained and sewered and purification is carried out at sewage works situated at convenient points. The usual arrangements are that the solid matter is settled in detritus and precipitation tanks and the liquid purified by a filter bed, humus tanks and land irrigation.

The sewage works at Trimdon, which had been seriously overloaded, were improved to take the increased quantity of sewage. The improvements were completed in December, 1955, and treatment is now continuing satisfactorily.

## Sanitary Conversions.

During 1955, 5 ash-closets etc. were converted to the water carriage system.

The following table shows the total number of closets in the district at 31st December, 1955.

	<i>Water Closets.</i>	<i>Ash-closets &amp; Privies</i>
Ferryhill ...	3834	14
Chilton ...	2056	12
Trimdon ...	1787	8
Cornforth ...	1625	20
Bishop Middleham	429	10
Sedgefield (incl. Hospitals)	1274	46
Fishburn ...	782	22
Mainsforth ...	79	12
Remainder of district including Aycliffe school	289	210
	<hr/> 12155	<hr/> 354

In 1930 the number of ash-closets and privies in the area was 5,771, now the number has been reduced to 354. Of these remaining privies and ash-closets the majority are attached to houses and farms, which are situated in outlying parts of the area.



## Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour in every part of your district except for some of the more outlying farms and cottages. For this purpose a Karrier fleet of 8 specially designed vehicles manned by a staff of twenty-eight men is employed. One wagon is utilised partly for trade refuse collection and partly for the cleansing of streets.

Disposal is by controlled tipping which normally takes place in six disused quarries in this district. Three-quarters of the area is given a twice weekly service. The rest of the district is visited once only.

Trade refuse is collected on request at 6d. per bin.

The cleansing of streets is carried out in conjunction with the Durham County Council.

## Summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1955.

	Number of Informal Notices served	Number of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Notice.
Housing :			
Public Health and Housing Acts.	293	1	265
Overcrowding.	3	—	3
Sanitary Conveniences :			
Insufficient.	3	—	3
Defective.	50	—	49
Drainage.	56	—	56
Water Supply.	5	—	5
Food Premises.	41	—	41
Shops Act.	1	—	—
Dairies.	1	—	1
Slaughter Houses :			
Public.	—	—	—
Private.	5	—	5
Tents, Vans, etc.	3	—	2
Offensive Trades.	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces.	2	—	2
Keeping of Animals.	1	—	1
Insanitary Receptacles.	63	—	62
Offensive accumulations.	7	—	7
Smoke Nuisances.	1	—	1
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.	4	—	4
<b>TOTAL.</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>507</b>

## WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE — Progress Report on Schemes in Hand.

Name of scheme and Area to be served.	Water or Sewerage.	Date of Ministry of Health. Inquiry or Investigation.	Estimated Cost.	Date of Ministry of Health. Approval.	Date commenced.	Date completed.	If in progress indicate stage.
Sedgefield Rural District Council Rural Water Supplies Scheme.	Water.	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 27/10/49.	£39,028	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 18/11/49.	April 1950.	Not yet completed.	99% completed.
Trimdon Village Sewage Disposal Works Extensions.	Sewerage	Ministry of Housing and Local Government, 3/7/53.	£13,110	Ministry of Housing and Local Government, 15/12/54.	March 1955.	December 1955.	—
West Cornforth Sewage Disposal Works Extensions.	Sewerage	Correspondence and interview with Ministry of Housing and Local Government in London from 29/6/53, onwards.	Preliminary estimate £14,500 Revised estimate £17,650 plus cost of purchasing land and fees.	—	—	—	—

## WATER SUPPLIES.

### *Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1945.*

The laying of the water main from Eldon Crossroads to Mill Cottages, Rushyford, was completed during the year. The provision of this main almost completed the scheme prepared under the above-mentioned Act by this Council. Almost 26 miles of water main varying from 3ins. to 6in. in diameter were laid.

This scheme was prepared to enable almost all the houses and other premises in the rural parts of the district to enjoy the convenience of a piped supply in place of the various less reliable sources previously existing.

During the year a further 29 houses were connected to these new mains. This brought the number of houses which are reasonably able to connect to the new water mains to almost 100 per cent.

The under-mentioned table shows the number of houses and the population served in the various parishes where the water supply is obtained by water mains direct to the houses, or by means of standpipes.

Parish	No. of houses with direct pipe supply	Estimated population obtaining water as aforesaid	No. of houses with stand-pipe supply	Estimated population obtaining water from stand-pipe supplies
Bishop Middleham	360	1,152	—	—
Bradbury ... ..	43	137	8	26
Butterwick ... ..	10	32	—	—
Chilton ... ..	1,990	6,368	—	—
Cornforth ... ..	1,460	4,672	—	—
Elstob ... ..	12	39	—	—
Embleton ... ..	5	16	5	15
Ferryhill ... ..	3,271	10,467	—	—
Fishburn ... ..	787	2,518	—	—
Foxton and Shotton	11	35	—	—
Mainsforth ... ..	77	246	—	—
Preston-le-Skerne ...	18	57	—	—
Mordon ... ..	43	137	—	—
Sedgefield ... ..	784	2,508	—	—
		(excluding patients in Winterton H.)		
Stillington ... ..	47	150	—	—
Trimdon ... ..	1,637	5,238	10	34
Woodham (excluding Aycliffe Approved School ...	34	108	—	—
Windlestone ... ..	50	160	—	—



The continued chlorination of the Durham County Water Board's supply has proved successful in that the majority of bacteriological samples taken throughout the year were satisfactory.

The Durham County Water Board experienced great difficulty in maintaining an adequate supply of water in their area due to the prolonged drought. Additional quantities were required from Mainsforth Colliery to eke out the diminishing upland supply and, so far as this district was concerned, care in the use of water was exercised by the inhabitants and no failure or cut-off of the supply was experienced.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

In your district there are 212 food shops, 52 public houses, 11 clubs, 4 bakehouses, 7 colliery canteens and 1 central kitchen.

Details of the types of food shops are given in the following table :-

Township.	Grocer and General Dealer.	Baker and Confectioner.	Butchers	Ice-Cream and Snack Bars.	Fish businesses	Green-grocery.
Bishop Middleham	5	—	1	—	—	—
Chilton ...	12	1	3	—	4	1
Cornforth ...	19	3	3	1	5	—
Ferryhill ...	51	8	12	1	11	—
Fishburn ...	10	—	2	1	3	1
Sedgefield ...	8	3	2	1	3	—
Trimdon Colliery ...	6	—	1	—	2	1
Trimdon Grange ...	7	—	1	—	2	—
Trimdon Village ...	11	1	2	1	2	—
Total	129	16	27	5	32	3

107 of the above premises are of the house and shop type and there are 104 businesses run by the family without outside assistance.

### **Premises licensed under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

Under the above heading there are 31 premises licensed for the preparation and sale of preserved foods and 62 licensed for the sale of ice-cream. These are also included in the above table.

During 1955, 504 visits were made to food shops in the district but particular attention was paid to those few shops where hot running water was not available.

As a result of visits to food premises numerous improvements both from the handling and structural point of view were obtained. A higher standard of hygienic food handling, wrapping and storage is being steadily achieved. Emphasis was constantly laid on the importance of having clean hands when handling food.

Simultaneously with these visits to the shops, detailed inspections of public houses in the area were made. As a result of informal action many minor improvements have been carried out. Plans for major alterations, such as the provision of new sanitary accommodation inside the building in lieu of external accommodation, were in many cases under preparation by the end of 1955 and some of these plans have subsequently been carried to their conclusion.

Apart from inspection of the premises, food thought to be unfit for human consumption was inspected and as a result 177 certificates were issued against 116st. 11lbs.

## Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed ...	1,650	245	16	3,017	1,755	—
Number inspected ...	1,650	245	16	3,017	1,755	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	1	4	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	175	46	—	41	57	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	10.67	19.18	6.25	1.49	3.13	—
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	3	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	40	20	—	—	21	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	2.61	9.39	—	—	1.19	—
<b>Cysticercosis.</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—



A 2½-year-old bullock, the subject of emergency slaughter, when inspected in a private slaughter house, was found to have been affected with Anthrax. The police and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were notified in accordance with the provisions of the Diseases of Animals Acts. The disease was confirmed by microscopic examination of the animal's blood and the animal was disposed of by cremation. The slaughter house was closed for a period of ten days for thorough disinfection and all persons who were in contact with the animal during slaughtering or dressing were kept under surveillance for eight days and their doctors informed.

No further case of Anthrax resulted from this casualty.

This Authority is responsible for 18 private slaughter houses. One of these has not been used since before the war. The use of another was discontinued during 1955. There are now 16 slaughter houses in operation throughout the district. These are visited regularly for the purpose of examining all slaughtered food animals. The quality of animals slaughtered remained for the most part at a high standard and the incidence of diseased animals was low.

The good will and close liaison which exists between inspectors and the food traders of the district was maintained. Consequently it was not necessary to officially seize any foodstuffs throughout the year. The disposal of condemned foodstuffs and meat is by destruction, burying at suitable sites, or sale by the owners. When meat is condemned it is coloured with a harmless green dye and if intended for animal food it is first sterilised.

Four food traders within the district manufacture their own ice-cream for sale to the public. All brands of ice-cream are sampled for bacteriological standard and of all samples taken few were below the satisfactory standard.

## **MILK SUPPLIES.**

### **Dairies registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations - 1949.**

All milk consumed in the area is supplied in sealed containers from pasteurising plants situated outside of the district. There are therefore no premises registered as dairies by this authority.

The bulk of the milk used is obtained either from the Milk Marketing Board's plant at Langley Bridge, Durham, or from Co-operative Societies. Most of the milk consumed is either pasteurised or tuberculin tested, being delivered to the consumer in sealed bottles.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was empowered under Section 23 of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, to make Orders specifying areas in which all milk sold by retail must conform to the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953, or the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

During 1955 the Minister, on being satisfied that the consumer demand could be met by supplies of specially designated milk, scheduled such an aforementioned specified area in the north-east part of the country which includes the whole of your district.

There are 40 distributors registered with this Authority for the sale of milk. The following table indicates the number of licences issued for the sale of designated milk for 1955:—

**Dealers Licences authorising the use of the Special Designations.**

"Pasteurised"	"Sterilised"	"Tuberculin Tested"
29	25	27

**Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the Special Designations.**

"Pasteurised"	"Sterilised"	"Tuberculin Tested"
6	6	3

**Rodent Control.**

The maintenance treatment for rats in the sewers, sewage works and refuse tips in the Council's area was carried out according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries instructions. All branches of sewers that showed takes of the test baits were given full treatment.

Sewage works were given intermediate treatment where there was a number of takes of the baits.

Refuse tips were also treated and where it was necessary intermediate treatment was given.

The following is a summary of treatment as supplied to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries:—

**Sewers.**

Total number of manholes is	1767		
Number test baited	508		
Number treated	638		
Number of takes :		Poison baits taken :	
Complete ...	194	Complete ...	99
Partial ...	86	Partial ...	122
Total	280	Total	221
Amount of poison bait taken, in ozs.	318.		
Estimated number destroyed	793.		



**Sewage Works.**

Number of sewage works. 13.

Number of baiting points laid, (1 oz. per point) 697.

Number of takes,		Poison baits taken,	
Complete ...	590	Complete ...	323
Partial ...	24	Partial ...	69
Total	614	Total	392

Amount of poison bait taken, in ozs. 358.

Estimated number destroyed 864.

**Refuse Tips.**

Number of refuse tips. 5.

Number of baiting points laid, (1oz. per point) 380,

Number of takes,		Poison bait taken,	
Complete ...	342	Complete ...	186
Partial ...	9	Partial ...	40
Total	351	Total	226

Amount of poison bait taken, in ozs. 206.

Estimated number destroyed 519.

Other surface infestations, including business premises and dwellings.

Amount of poison bait taken in ozs. 236.

Estimated number destroyed. 479.

	<i>Total amount of poison bait taken.</i>	<i>Number destroyed.</i>
Sewers	318 ozs.	793
Sewage Works	358 „	864
Refuse Tips	206 „	519
Other Surface Infestations	236 „	479
Totals	1118 ozs.	2,655

Investigations into complaints and survey of business premises were carried out and where necessary, treatment given.

The number of premises which were treated after being test baited and found to be infested was 5, requiring a number of visits to clear the infestations. The total number of business premises visited was 20. Eleven of these premises were suspected of rats and nine of mice.

Dwelling houses which were visited and treated for rats and mice in and about houses were 138, which covers 98 for rats and 40 for mice. There were no signs of any serious infestations.



### List of By-laws in force in district.

<i>Date made.</i>	<i>Title.</i>
25th September, 1931.	With respect to houses intended or used for occupation by the working classes and let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family.
17th February, 1950.	Handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and sale of food in the open air.
27th July, 1950.	Sale of contraceptives in automatic machines.
5th January, 1951.	Control of Bulls.
16th June, 1952.	Noisy Hawking.
4th December, 1952.	Public Libraries Act, 1901. Section 3.
27th March, 1953.	Building Byelaws under Public Health Act, 1936.
9th December, 1953.	Deposit of Mud and other materials on highways.
1st July, 1954.	Deposit of litter to detriment of public amenities.
1st June, 1955.	Nuisances contrary to public decency. (Parishes of Chilton, Cornforth, Ferryhill, Fishburn, Sedgefield and Trimdon).
1st June, 1955.	Fouling of footways by dogs. (Parishes of Bishop Middleham, Chilton, Cornforth, Ferryhill, Fishburn, Sedgefield, and Trimdon).

**Factories Act, 1937.**

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.  
Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspect- ions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occup'rs prosec'd (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	13	24	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	49	52	2	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	10	7	1	—	3
TOTAL ...		72	83	3	—	

Particulars  (1)	M/c line No.  (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prose- cutions were in- stituted  (7)	M/c line No.  (8)
		Found  (3)	Remed- ied  (4)	Referred To H.M. By H.M. In- In- spectors spector (5) (6)			
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate venti- lation (S.4.) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S.6.) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7.) ...							
(a) Insufficient ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	3	2	—	1	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences ag- ainst the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work) ... ..	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ...		3	2	—	1	—	

M. W. RODGERS, Medical Officer of Health.







